



Fact Sheet

Women in Treatment



The data in this fact sheet is based on admissions and discharges from publicly funded treatment services in California during Calendar Year 2006 as reported in the California Outcome Measurement System (CalOMS) unless otherwise noted.

Characteristics of Women in Treatment

- In 2006, 76,204 women were admitted to publicly funded treatment for abuse of alcohol and other drugs.
- The primary sources of referral to treatment were self-referral, from court or probation under the Substance Abuse Crime Prevention Act (SACPA), from Non-SACPA court or criminal justice, and from other community referrals. Of all women admitted to treatment, 34 percent were self-referred, 39 percent were court ordered, and 27 percent were referred to treatment from some other source.
- Women 21 to 25 years old account for the largest number of publicly funded treatment admissions in California. For this age group, 28 percent were self-referred, 44 percent were court ordered, and 28 percent were referred to treatment from some other source.
- Of women in treatment, 54 percent were White, 15 percent were African American, 3 percent were American Indian, and 3 percent were Asian or Pacific Islander. Seventeen percent of women identified themselves as Hispanic.
- Eighty-four percent of women admitted to treatment were unemployed, including those who were seeking employment and those who were not in the labor force.
- Of women admitted into treatment during 2006, 43 percent had less than 12 years of education. In comparison, 38 percent had 12 years of education and 19 percent had more than 12 years of education.
- Of women admitted into treatment, 60 percent had minor children under the age of 17. Of the women admitted into treatment, 58 percent had children under five years old.
- Of women discharged during 2006, 34 percent completed their treatment and recovery plan and achieved their goals.
- For all women admitted to treatment, 24 percent were in treatment between 8 and 29 days, 25 percent were in treatment between 30 and 89 days, 17 percent received between 90 and 179 days, and 6 percent were in treatment 180 days or more. The remaining 28 percent of admissions were in treatment less than 8 days typically for detoxification services.

Primary Drug of Abuse for Women Admitted to Treatment

- Based on data from the California Alcohol and Drug Data System (CADDs) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2005-06, methamphetamine (44%) was the primary drug of abuse for women admitted to treatment followed by alcohol (17%), heroin (14%), marijuana/hashish (11%), and cocaine/crack (10%). The table on page 3 provides the number and percent of primary drug of abuse and the percent change for each drug between FY 2001-02 and FY 2005-06.
- Also based on CADDs data for FY 2005-06, methamphetamine was the most common drug of abuse in 37 of the 58 counties in California. The counties with the highest number of admissions to treatment for methamphetamine addiction were Los Angeles (6,113), San Bernardino (3,082), Riverside (2,159), San Diego (2,125), and Santa Clara (1,739). The maps on page 4 show the most common drug of abuse by county in California.
- For women under 26 years of age, methamphetamine was the primary drug for 49 percent, followed by marijuana (24%), alcohol (14%), heroin (6%), and cocaine/crack (4%).
- For women in the SACPA program, methamphetamine was the most common drug of abuse.
- For women in treatment, smoking was the most common route of administration of the primary drug.

- Of women in treatment during 2006, 4,507 indicated that they were pregnant at the time of admission.
- Among pregnant women admitted to treatment in California, methamphetamine was the primary drug of abuse at 59 percent followed by marijuana at 14 percent, alcohol at 9 percent, and heroin at 8 percent.
- In 2004, the California Maternal and Infant Health Assessment estimated that 100,000 infants are born prenatally exposed to alcohol, and an estimated 20,000 to 60,000 are born prenatally exposed to illicit drugs.

Focus on Pregnant Women

Changes between Admission to and Discharge from Treatment

- For women in treatment in California, 58 percent did not use their primary drug (abstinence) at the time of discharge. Between admission and discharge, 15 percent of women reported a reduction in use and 27 percent showed no change or an increase in use.
- Among women using alcohol as their primary drug, 50 percent abstained from it at the time of discharge. Between admission and discharge, 23 percent of women reduced the consumption of alcohol and 27 percent showed either no change or an increase.
- Medical problems of women in treatment were 25 percent lower at discharge compared to admission. Between admission and discharge, women had 28 percent fewer emergency room visits, 30 percent fewer overnight hospital stays, and 25 percent fewer physical health problems.
- Between admission and discharge, women had 13 percent fewer outpatient emergency visits for mental health needs, 22 percent fewer overnight stays in a hospital or psychiatric facility for mental health needs, and 3 percent more clients took prescribed medications for mental health needs.
- Women's involvement in the criminal justice system, based on number of arrests and days incarcerated, was 50 percent lower at discharge than at admission.
- The rate of employment among women (age 16 or older) in treatment was 26 percent higher at

discharge compared to admission. Participation in school increased by 17 percent and in job training (age 18 or older) by 92 percent between admission and discharge.

- The incidence of homelessness among women in treatment between admission and discharge declined by nine percent during 2006.
- Between admission and discharge from treatment, 38 percent of women stopped living with another person using alcohol or other drugs, while 30 percent reported fewer serious family conflicts.
- During treatment, use of support activities among women increased by 28 percent.

Comparing Women and Men in Treatment

- Women comprised 36 percent of the treatment population, while 64 percent of the individuals in treatment were men.
- For both men and women, methamphetamine was the most commonly reported primary drug of abuse. However, a higher proportion of women were methamphetamine users compared to men. Methamphetamine was the most common drug for 43 percent of women and 32 percent for men.
- Alcohol was the second most commonly reported drug of choice at admission among both men and women. Alcohol was the most common drug of abuse for 20 percent of men and 17 percent of women.
- A slightly higher percentage of men (38%) completed treatment than women (34%).

- Slightly over half of both men and women in treatment (54% and 52% respectively) used their primary drug of choice for the first time when they were under 18 years old.
- The rate of employment at the time of admission for men (28%) was higher than for women (16%). The rate of participation in education at admission for men (41%) was similar to women (43%).
- There was no significant difference in the reported incidence of homelessness at admission between men and women (20% for men and 18% for women).

Maps of Primary Drug of Abuse by County for Women in Treatment

The maps on the next page show the changes in the most commonly reported primary drug of abuse by county at client admission to treatment in California between FY 2000-01 and FY 2005-06.

Change in Primary Drug of Abuse for Women in Treatment Based on Data from the California Alcohol and Drug Data System (CADDs)					
Drug	FY 2001-02		FY 2005-06		Percent change
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Heroin	19,800	23%	11,500	14%	-42%
Alcohol	17,600	20	13,700	17	- 22
Methamphetamine	27,400	31	35,900	44	+31
Cocaine/Crack	10,700	12	7,800	10	-27
Marijuana/Hashish	7,900	9	8,900	11	+13
Other	3,700	4	3,600	4	-3

The maps below are based on data from the California Alcohol and Drug Data System (CADDs) for Fiscal Years 2000-01 and 2005-06.

Primary Drug of Abuse for Women

